



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
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29 August 2019

Dear Parents,

I believe that you and your children are getting ready for the new school year at the end of the summer vacation. You may have been in distress amid the social disputes and tension in recent months. It is time for us to ease our mind and get set for a new beginning. In this regard, the Education Bureau (EDB) will continue to join hands with you to foster home-school co-operation for protecting our children.

Fostering respect, care and harmony

It is indeed our common goal to provide a safe and peaceful environment for our children so that they can concentrate on their study. Despite the fact that we always have diverse views on controversial issues or evolving political events, we do need calmness, rational discussion and mutual respect in expressing our view. It is worrying that some people have resorted to radical actions which could put lives at risk or even unlawful acts in the course of the recent social movements. Therefore, we sincerely hope that parents can be more attentive to what children have in mind and provide them with clear guidance against taking part in dangerous or illegal activities.

The EDB is strongly opposed to class boycotts, which might affect normal school operation and undermine students' learning opportunities. Schools should never be used for expressing political demands, and more importantly, minors should not be involved as the move could bring them emotional disturbances and undermine school harmony. Hong Kong is a

pluralistic society. We should always respect different views from others and express our own view in a peaceful, rational and lawful manner. Students at schools, being havens for learning, should observe school regulations and co-operate with teachers in creating a peaceful and harmonious learning environment. Class boycott, if any, will surely affect the normal learning of the students taking part in it and also their fellow classmates. Please dissuade your children from joining.

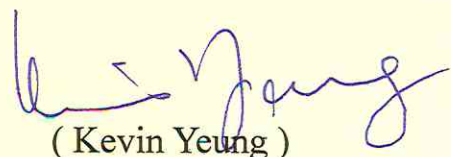
Nurturing children through home-school co-operation

Summer vacation is coming to its end and students will need to adapt to regular learning in schools again. The social disputes in recent months may affect the peer relationship among students. After all, it is normal for students from different families to have different views and stances. In any case, this should not affect friendship or be a cause for bullying. I earnestly encourage you to be more attentive to your children's condition, listen to them more, share their feelings, strengthen communication with schools, and seek assistance from class teachers, guidance teachers or other professionals whenever necessary.

I also wish to appeal to you to keep a close watch on the traffic conditions on the first school day, and draw children's attention to safety. Please advise them to stay away from dangers and maintain contact with parents or schools in case of exceptional circumstances or emergency incidents. We have reminded schools to make flexible arrangements if students are late or absent from school because of such exceptional circumstances. Parents are also advised to promptly inform schools of unforeseeable circumstances, if any.

As the new school year is approaching, I hope that with the concerted efforts of schools, parents and the EDB, our children will have a healthy and happy new start.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Yeung', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(Kevin Yeung)

Secretary for Education